

## "Self" Pronouns

The "self" pronouns are easy to recognize because they all end in "self." Here are all of them:

myself oneself himself herself itself  
yourself yourselves ourselves themselves

Notice that some of the pronouns are singular (*myself, oneself, himself, herself, itself, yourself*) and some are plural (*ourselves, yourselves, themselves*). Notice also that you don't see *theirselves*. That's because it is considered nonstandard English.

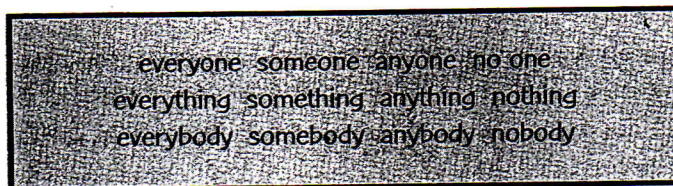
◆ For each of the items below, choose the pronoun from the above list that best completes the sentence.

1. The twelve members of the Beagle family considered \_\_\_\_\_ the best bagel bakers on Beezle Street, bar none.
2. We were quite concerned when Stuart confessed that he believed \_\_\_\_\_ to be an artichoke.
3. Miss Apple always says to the class, "Behave \_\_\_\_\_ out there!"
4. Annette saw \_\_\_\_\_ as the only cop on the beat worth her uniform.
5. Beatrice considers \_\_\_\_\_ the roller blade champion of Junction City.
6. If you worry about the world too much, you will tie \_\_\_\_\_ in knots.
7. "I declare \_\_\_\_\_ to be the winner!" Juan said, even before the starting gun was fired.
8. The tornado blew \_\_\_\_\_ out before it reached Kansas.
9. One must take \_\_\_\_\_ seriously in this class.
10. We humans see \_\_\_\_\_ as the brightest things on the planet.

◆ Using any three of the singular "self" pronouns listed above, write a letter to the Ajax Candy Company asking for a job as a chocolate taster on the night shift. Tell what qualities a good employee should have, and promote yourself as a hard worker, a punctual person, and someone with "taste."

## Everyone's Favorite

*Each, either, neither* and *one* are always considered singular. There are also a dozen more pronouns that require singular verbs. (These are called “indefinite” pronouns, because the nouns they stand in for are not named specifically. For example, who, exactly, is *everyone*?) These singular, indefinite pronouns are listed in the box below:



- ◆ In the sentences below, circle the correct form of the verb needed in the sentence. Remember, indefinite pronouns are singular. Try substituting the word *one* for the indefinite pronoun, to see which verb form to use.

Example

Everybody in dance class wears/wear sneakers. (One *wears* sneakers.)

1. Everyone at the dance have/has a favorite move.
2. Someone in the band does/do not play worth a dime.
3. Anyone with any brains love/loves accordion music.
4. No one in the audience listen/listens to the words.
5. Everything is/are black except for the strobe lights flickering off Rita's cast.
6. Something happen/happens each time Ruby teams up with Howard on the sax.
7. Anything goes/go when Waldo shows.
8. No one wants/want to hear Ms. Kruger play the bagpipes.
9. Everybody love/loves the way Angelo keeps time with his salad fork.
10. Somebody gag/gags every time they turn on the fog machine.

- ◆ Using five of the indefinite pronouns listed above, write five sentences about any one of the following topics:

- You attend your first meeting of the Royal Order of the Restless Mugwumps.
- You are an alien dropped off at a mall in Detroit.
- You attend an Italian opera with your Aunt Lilith.
- A large tuba player faints during the Fourth of July parade.